Sick units in Andhra Pradesh

2650. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the chemical and pharmaceutical PSUs of the Ministry after becoming sick in the last decade have been referred to BIFR;

(b) if so, the details of the PSUs turned sick during the last decade;

(c) on the direction of BIFR, what measures are being implemented to revive the PSUs and also to rehabilitate the laid down/pruned work force;

(d) whether any new capital investment has been made in Andhra Pradesh to set up new units and also expand the existing production capacities of the units;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The following PSUs were referred to BIFR since 1997:—

(i) Hindustan Antibiotics Limited (HAL), Pune.

(ii) Hindustan Organic Chemicals Limited (HOCL), Mumbai.

(iii) Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL), New Delhi.

Government approved rehabilitation schemes for revival of the above mentioned companies. The approved schemes *inter alia* involve cash infusion, waiver/write off of Government of India loans and interest thereon. The work force was pruned through introduction or Voluntary Retirement Schemes.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise

(f) Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) has one unit at Hyderabad. Depending upon the approval to the revival package of IDPL, investment in Hyderabad unit would be considered.

Beneficiaries of fertilizer subsidies

†2651. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the benefit of present fertilizer subsidy goes only to big farmers and small farmers deprived of it comparatively;

(b) whether it is a fact that the benefit of present system of fertilizer subsidy goes basically to fertilizer producers;

(c) whether a change in this system is recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.